US President's visit to India

1585. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US Government have stated that visit of their President to India will take place only if India agrees to sign the CTBT;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government; and

(c) what are the views of Government on the signing of the CTBT?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) India's position on the CTBT was articulated by the Prime Minister in the UN General Assembly in September 1998 and in Parliament in December 1998. This was reiterated by the External Affairs Minister at the UN General Assembly in September 1999. The priority of our meeting the country's national security concerns having been addressed, the government believes that we now need to convey reassurance to the international community and, in this regard, desires to develop a national consensus. That remains the government's position.

Issuance of passports on Tatkal Basis

1586. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue passport on Tatkal basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the scheme will become effective; and

(c) whether Government would net additional revenue from this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Government is formulating a 'Tatkal Scheme' for issue of passports within seven working days submission of application. Under